

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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TAGS: MASS YO

SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT
FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 290763

1. THE PROVISION OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO YUGOSLAVIA IS LIMITED OT THE FMS SALES AND COMMERCIAL SALES CATEGORIES. IN RECENT YEARS THE TOTAL PROGRAM HAS BEEN VERY SMALL BUT IT MAY EXPAND MODESTLY AS THE YUGOSLAVS SEEK TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES IN CERTAIN AREAS AND TO DIVERSIFY THEIR SOURCES OF EQUIPMENT PROCURED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. THE GOY IS AWARE THAT ONCE SALES FROM THE US ARE APPROVED, MUCH OF THE INFORMATION BE DECLASSIFIED. IT IS NONETHELESS CONCERNED THAT EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS AND THEIR LISTS OF DESIRED ITEMS BE KEPT HIGHLY CLASSIFIED. WE WOULD SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT, IF NECESSARY, ONLY THOSE ITEMS FOR WHICH LOA'S HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BE LISTED IN THE CPD. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

2. JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM--THROUGH ITS LOCATION IN THE BALKANS AND ON THE ADRIATIC, YUGOSLAVIA HAS AN
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IMPORTANT BEARING ON OUR STRATEGIV CONCERNS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, ON NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK, AND IN CENTRAL EUROPE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WUPPORT YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND POLITICAL UNITY IN ORDER TO PROMOTE CONTINUED STABILITY IN THIS REGION. OUR STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ARE WELL SERVED IF YUGOSLAVIA REMAINS

FREE OF SOVIET BASES.

3. YUGOSLAVIA PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE BY HAVING INTRODUCED MARKET CONSIDERATIONS INTO ITS ECONOMY, DECENTRALIZING ITS GOVERNMENT, OPENING ITS BORDERS AND SEEKING CLOSE TIES WITH THE US AND THE WEST. IT HAS MAINTAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION SINCE 1948 AND HAS BEEN A LEADER IN ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING THE NON-ALIGNED ORIENTATION TO WHICH THE MAJORITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS ADHERED.

4. THROUGH DOMESTIC INDUSTRY, YUGOSLAVIA PRODUCES THE BULK OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS. FOR THE REST, HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN YUGOSLAVIA'S PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER. A NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES ALSO ARE TRADITIONAL BUT MODEST SUPPLIERS. BY PERMITTING YUGOSLAVIA TO DIVERSIFY ITS SUPPLY SOURCES, WE ARE ENCOURAGING MAINTENANCE OF ITS INDEPENDENT POLICY AND THEREBY FURTHERING US NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM--FOR ALMOST TWO DECADES YUGOSLAV FMS AND COMMERCIAL CASH PURCHASES OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN CONFINED MAINLY TO SPARE PARTS FOR US EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN THE 1950'S. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, COMPONENTS FOR SOME MAJOR ITEMS. PRODUCTION AND SALE OF AMMUNITION, AND PURCHASE OF COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT. DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO IDENTIFY US EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE RELEASED TO GOY AND AT THE SAME TIME ACCORD WITH YUGOSLAV DESIRES. IF AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED, THE LEVEL OF SALES ENVISAGED MIGHT RISE TO (DEPT TO ADD FIGURE) FOR FY 79. INTRODUCTION OF ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT INTO YUGOSLAVIA WILL NOT AFFECT THE STRATEGIC BALANCE IN THE REGION. US INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY HELPING TO PROVIDE YUGOSLAVIA WITH AN ALTERNATE EQUIPMENT SOURCE AND TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF YUGOSLAVIA'S ARMED FORCES TO CARRY OUT THEIR PURELY DEFENSIVE MISSIONS. END UNCLASSIFIED.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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